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Typed 4 February 2012 by IB from a transcription made HMW 12 August 1988, and checked against MS

Theodosia Hester to Sarah Bracher, 19 July 1866

Blackwood Park

July 19th / 66

My dear Sister

I think this is dear Fannys birth day I must wish her many happy returns of the day I am sure your dear Child will be a very great comfort to you, and help in the household duties, when we are with out servants Frances & Amy take the whole of the housework and washing on themselves of course it is not for long at a time they are such dear good girls I wish I could keep them always with me, Edwd often says they must not think of marrying until they are 4 or 5 and twenty they will make good house keepers I am very regular with all the house hold duties and of course they will follow it up I have had all mine to learn since I was married so they will be better off than me. Our poor sister Letitia has been very ill dear Amy has been nursing her for some days, if I did not keep medicine in the house I do not know what they would do L always sends to us for something to do her good I am always very happy to do anything for them that lays in my power Robert and the children are all laid up with influenza Our dear little boy Ted has been on a visit to the Eliots in Bunbury he is on his way home now he rode out to Mr Thomsons of Brookhampton and he very much wished Teddy to spend a short time with them Mr T married Emma Roe, they live about 38 miles from us and 28 from Bunbury they have 4 children when they came to Bunbury we had given up business, so of course I called on her at the Eliots I was then leaving for the Blackwood she returned my call with two of the Misses Eliot she is like a brother to Edwd whenever he calls on his way to Bunbury the last time he saw Mr T he asked him if he had called on Mrs T on his way down Edwd said no he had not time Mr T said well Hester if you pass my house I shall not call on you when I come to the Blackwood. You will be glad to hear that the Governor has made our dear Shakespeare a J P for the Roebuck Bay district with his nice salary he is quite the Gentleman we did not see him when he was up he had not time to come so far, dear Ander is doing well he and Lucy are very happy indeed, I do not know when dear H is to be married I

suppose I shall soon hear I have invited him and his lady to spend some time with us when they make their wedding tour I have not heard since, I only hope he will be as happy as we are and he will not wish for more I mean as married people. I must answer a few of your queries, S Earnshaw is not married she has the Government school, that brings her in 70£ per annum, Cole died at the Sound after a trip to Melbourne T Peel is not married yet, I am happy to hear of our Aunt and other relations doing so well it gave me great pleasure to hear of them though they do not care to hear of me or mine, I wonder cousin Ted does not get married but I suppose he is like Aunt has too much good sense to get into *cares cast*. My dear sister you ask me for a likeness of myself you cannot have a better one than the one in Aunt's possession Henry only left it with her for a short time it belongs to my dear husband so I am at liberty to give it to whom I think fit, Aunt cannot wish to keep the likeness of one she cares nothing about though if I had hers I should love and kiss it as I would one of our dear Mother's, by the way I had almost forgotten to tell you dear Shake sent Letitia and myself a likeness of dear Mama I suppose it is on Franks account that Aunt is so unkind towards me, I have an old letter of hers by me I will enclose it that you may see how very kindly she wrote I am afraid there is something at the bottom that I do not comprehend, however it matters not I should be grieved to treat our unfortunate Frank so unkindly though he behaved so ill to me I have been one of his best friends since, your letter is more than 2 months old Give our united love to George love and kisses to Fanny the little ones and yourself

With love from

Theodosia